



Regional Development Australia Hunter

Quarterly Report to the Region

1 July to 30 September 2018

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INTRODUCTION

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of local leaders working with all levels of government, the private sector, businesses and community groups to support economic development within their regions.

Facilitated through the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities RDA Hunter is funded by the Australian Government to facilitate a charter for a strong, confident and vibrant region.

RDA Hunter's Quarterly Report to the region highlights recent work we have undertaken to 30 September 2018 and identifies future economic development opportunities.

JULY 2018

STEMship Participants Commence Work Placement

2018 STEMship participants commenced the work placement component of the course with 16 Hunter region industry partners.

Participants, who are undertaking work experience in STEM and defence sectors in roles as diverse as shipwright, electrician, diesel mechanic and systems engineer, have been matched to targeted Hunter workplaces based on their interests and expertise – with the aim of gaining apprenticeships or technical traineeships.

2018 STEMship Industry partners include:

- Varley Group
- Ampcontrol
- EDC,
- Hummingbird Electronics
- UAV Air
- Obelisk Systems
- Cummins South Pacific
- Hedweld Group
- AV Living Port Stephens
- Bluewater Cruising Yachts
- Tomago Aluminium
- PBE Rutherford
- Advantage Electrical
- Coastal Shipwright Services
- Inovin Industries
- Mat Brown Building

STEMship is a Hunter based VET transition program developed in 2016 by RDA Hunter and delivered in partnership with the Department of Industry – Training Services NSW and TAFE NSW. In 2018, the STEMship program continues to be managed by RDA Hunter and supported by a grant from the NSW Department of Industry. The multi-disciplinary training component is delivered by TAFE NSW.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/stemship-work-placement-underway-in-the-hunter>

Monday, 15 October 2018

RDA Hunter's ME Program – Case Study

Inspiring Hunter Girls to be STEM Women – RDA Hunter and the Tech Girls Movement Partnership

The ME Program is part of RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative, which delivers life-stage specific education programs to create a pipeline of opportunities and activities for students from eight years of age to 18, in preparation for STEM careers.

The ME Program facilitates formal partnerships between Hunter industry and high schools to make curriculum more workplace-relevant and build awareness of defence industry careers. It has a strong focus on developing science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills in students from years nine to 12 in readiness for the jobs that industry will require in the future.

The ME Program also works to diversify the cohort studying STEM and aims to promote the defence sector opportunities available to girls. Participation in ME Program events, such as Tech Girls are SuperHeroes, sheflies, STEM-Ex and Aerospace Industry Careers Days, delivers an increase in the number of girls studying STEM and considering careers in defence industry.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/inspiring-hunter-girls-to-be-tech-women>

Careers in STEM Website

<https://careerswithstem.com.au/rda-hunter-stem-girls/>

2019 Certificate II Aeroskills Announced

RDA Hunter has announced a partnership with TAFE NSW to deliver a Cert II in Aeroskills to Hunter students in 2019.

Proposed delivery sites in 2019 include Singleton High School, Hunter River High School, Lake Macquarie High Schools, All Saints St Mary's and Callaghan College – Jesmond Campus.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/tafe-nsw-and-rda-hunter-delivering-a-pathway-to-cert-ii-in-aeroskills>

RDA Hunter and Lockheed Martin Australia hold Industry Engagement session



Figure 1: RDA Hunter Chair, John Turner and Lockheed Martin Australia CEO, Vince di Pietro AM CSC

On July 23 in the Hunter, representatives from Lockheed Martin Australia and RDA Hunter hosted a range of stakeholders, to outline an assortment of opportunities for which the two organisations will be seeking local business and community support.

Lockheed Martin Australia Chief Executive, Vince di Pietro AM CSC said the partnership with RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative is the opportunity to invest in a highly skilled workforce in the Hunter region with the imminent arrival of the F-35 JSF planes.

"What's most exciting about Lockheed Martin Australia's partnership with RDA Hunter and its STEM Workforce Initiative, is that the Hunter will be home to the most technologically advanced capability Australia has ever invested in – the F35.

"Lockheed Martin Australia is investing in a highly skilled workforce in the Hunter region and is committed to a community relations program that invests in the quality of life of communities where our employees live," he said.

RDA Hunter Chairman John Turner said RDA Hunter is delighted to be partnering with Lockheed Martin Australia.

"Our partnership will result in workforce and industry development strategies that will maximise the significant economic impact of upcoming defence projects in the Hunter," he said.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/lockheed-martin-australia-providing-opportunity-in-the-hunter-region>

Regional partnerships

Consultations continued with government agencies, business and industry groups and community organisations throughout July including with representatives from the Lockheed Martin Australia, Committee for the Hunter, Hunter Defence, NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet, Hunter Business Chamber, Australian Industry Group, NSW Health Pathology and NSW Department of Education.

AUGUST 2018

RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative – Case Study

RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative was highlighted in the Mitchell Institute as an exemplar of successful school and industry partnerships.

A new report launched by the Institute recently suggests that schools alone cannot foster all the skills and capabilities that young people need and that one way to help address this is through school, industry partnerships.

RDA Hunter's locally developed STEM Workforce Initiative is a program of future focused applications that are successful due to strong school industry partnerships.

<http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/reports/connecting-the-worlds-of-learning-and-work/>

To read more about RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce success, see pages 12 and 13 of the following report:

[Connecting the worlds of learning and work: Prioritising school-industry partnerships in Australia's education system](#)

RDA Hunter receives 2018 Investing in Women Project Funding

Minister for Women Tanya Davies announced RDA Hunter as being successful in gaining funding through the Investing in Women Program which aims to inspire them to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at school and pursue STEM based careers.

RDA Hunter will receive \$24,880 to deliver a program which involves young women from secondary schools across the Hunter in workshops that inspire them to study and pursue STEM based careers.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/rda-hunter-receives-2018-investing-in-women-project-funding>

miniME Rover Launch & Professional Development Session

On Thursday 9 August, teachers from across the 18 Newcastle LGA primary schools participating in the NCC Smart Move Newcastle miniME Program received their StarLAB Mars Rover Kits and training.

The StarLAB Mars Rover is a coding platform that helps schools teach coding and STEM in the classroom. The technology can be used as a wireless datalogger using out-senses apps and can be programmed by students using Scratch and Python, which students also learn as part of miniME.

This launch was the first interaction the primary schools have received with the StarLAB Rover platform through Hunter technology partner, Obelisk Systems.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/minime-technology-roll-out>

National Skills Adviser visits Hunter for ME Program Familiarisation

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter was pleased to host the Australian Government's National Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Facilitator, Mr Stephen Hayes MBE, in the region on Thursday 23 August.

Mr Hayes was appointed to inform the Defence Industry Skilling and STEM Strategy to guide Federal industry skilling policy decisions to ensure Australia's workforce is appropriately large and skilled enough to deliver the Country's current and future defence project.

As part of his research, Mr Hayes requested a familiarisation of RDA Hunter's flagship defence industry/schools STEM project, the ME Program, which is recognised as an exemplar of successful industry, school partnerships by the Australian Government.

<http://www.meprogram.com.au/national-skills-adviser-visits-hunter-for-me-program-familiarisation/>

RDA's Collaborate to STEM skill school students through SISP



Figure 2: RDA Hunter Chair, John Turner, RDACW CEO, Julia Andrews, RDASI CEO, Mareeca Flannery & RDA Hunter CEO, Trevor John

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter is collaborating with RDAs Central West and Southern Inland to pilot a program that provides students in years 5 to 8 in each region with age appropriate STEM skills and inspiration to explore STEM jobs.

The collaboration project is funded by the NSW Department of Education and is guided by the recommendations identified in the *National STEM School Education Strategy (December 2015)* and *Optimising STEM industry-school partnerships: Inspiring Australia's next generation (April 2018)*.

RDA Hunter will partner with NSW Health Pathology and Cessnock Academy of STEM Excellence (CASE) primary and secondary schools to introduce primary and secondary students in Cessnock to STEM opportunities in Health Pathology in the Hunter. Central West will partner with the Ag-Tech Industry and Southern Inland with Energy and Resources.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/rdas-collaborate-to-stem-skill-school-students-through-sisp>

Regional partnerships

Consultations with government agencies, business and industry groups and community organisations throughout August, included meeting with representatives from the RDA Central West, RDA Southern Inland, NSW Department of Education, BAE Systems, Boeing Defence Australia, Lockheed Martin Australia, Varley, RAAF, Hunter Defence, TAFE NSW and Upper Hunter Diversification Working Group.

SEPTEMBER 2018

2018 STEMship Success: Students gain employment

On Thursday 6 September the 2018 STEMship students graduated from the 14-week Certificate III Engineering course at TAFE NSW that included the design, creation and manufacture of a product utilising advanced technologies and 4 weeks of work placement with Hunter industry.

Two of the 14 participants gained employment with their host companies prior to the completion of the program: Caleb Newitt in a Mechanical Automotive Apprenticeship with Kloster Ford (Newcastle), Mason Mangovski at Obelisk Systems (Maitland) while Samuel Pickles is being considered for a traineeship with EDC Consulting (Newcastle), Zane Folpp is in the final stages of the employment process with Bloomfield Collieries and Liam Symes has enrolled in CIV Engineering at Newcastle TAFE.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/2018-stemship-success-participants-gain-employment>

STEM Support for Hunter Workforce

The NSW Liberal National Government is investing a further \$400,000 over two years into a program that trains young people with the essential skills needed for the defence industry in regional NSW.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said this initiative, driven by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter, in partnership with the NSW Government and TAFE NSW, provides students with skills and expertise for the 21st century workplace.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/scot-macdonald-stem-support-for-hunter-workforce>

miniME Hackathon Event



Wednesday 19 September saw 180 students from years 5 and 6 across 18 Newcastle LGA primary schools come together to practice their coding and programming skills at the Hackathon event.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/minime-hackathon-1>

2018 Land Forces Expo

RDA Hunter was a representative on the Defence NSW stand at the 2018 Land Forces Expo held in Adelaide over three days from 4 – 6 September.

Land Forces is the international industry expo to showcase equipment, technology and services for the armies of Australia and the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

Defence NSW Website:

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/defence-nsw/news/defence-news/defence-might-of-nsw-on-show-at-land-forces>

RDA Hunter welcomes Schools Pathway Programme Funding

RDA Hunter welcomes the announcement by Minister for Defence Industry, The Hon Steven Ciobo MP of continued funding for the ME Program through an Australian Government, Department of Defence, Schools Pathways Programme Grant.

<https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/minister/steven-ciobo/media-releases/schools-pathways-programme-grant-recipients>

Regional partnerships

Consultations continued with government agencies, business and industry groups and community organisations throughout August, with RDA Hunter meeting representatives from the RDA Central West, RDA Southern Inland, NSW Department of Education, BAE Systems, Boeing Defence Australia, Lockheed Martin Australia, Varley, RAAF, Hunter Defence, HunterNet, Hunter Business Chamber, TAFE NSW, Hunter Energy Transition Alliance –

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Advisory Group, HETA – Government Interagency Working Group and Upper Hunter Diversification Working Group.

Emerging and potential issues impacting future regional development

Issue	RDA Hunter's responses
Closure of Liddell Power Station 2022	Participate in Liddell Innovation Project
	Advise industry and investors of opportunities to participate in regionally significant economic transition program
	Board briefing from General Manager and Communications Manager from AGL Macquarie
	Member of Hunter Energy Transition Alliance – Government Interagency Working Group

RDA HUNTER NEWSLETTERS

DATE	TOPIC
10 July 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
19 July 2018	RDA Hunter – Quarterly Report to the Region
24 July 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
14 August 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative – National Science Week 2018
28 August 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
11 September 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
25 September 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND – ROUND 3 APPLICATIONS OPEN

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP announced the opening of Round Three of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

Rounds One and Two of the BBRF were highly competitive with 1776 applications received, with just over a quarter of these receiving funding. Round Three provides an additional \$200 million, giving further opportunity for eligible applicants to apply.

A key component under Round Three is that up to \$45 million has been earmarked for tourism related infrastructure projects that will help stimulate local economies by investing in the tourism sector. This sector is vital for our regional and remote communities, creating jobs, stimulating new business and sustaining long term economic growth.

The closing date for applications is 15 November 2018.

The BBRF application portal is now open and can be accessed at www.business.gov.au/bbrf. The guidelines and other supporting material is also available here.

Successful Hunter region projects

RDA Hunter assisted Hunter region businesses with application and provided letters of support for the Building Better Regions Fund. Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government has announced the projects to be funded under Round Two of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Infrastructure Projects (IP) stream. Three Hunter projects were successful in gaining funding through the stream.

The Hunter region successful projects:

Applicant Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Project Location	State	Grant Approved	Total Project Cost
Cessnock City Council	Business Capability Study and Council Capacity Building Toolkit	This project will involve a study of businesses to determine numbers within the region, their size, employment capacity, ICT take up, export and import status, and skills shortages.	Cessnock	NSW	\$15,000	\$30,000
Anglican Care	Construct New Seniors Living Community Village	The project will build a community based residential aged care facility, incorporating 54 single rooms with ensuites and communal facilities.	Gloucester	NSW	\$8,000,000	\$18,141,511
Singleton Council	Livestock Market Kiosk Upgrade	The project will refurbish the Singleton Regional Livestock Market's Office/Kiosk building to improve the aesthetics of the building and make it more user friendly.	Singleton	NSW	\$305,955	\$611,910